

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. (currently amended) A method of accessing a first file on a disk system on one
2 of a plurality of computer systems from a program executing on another of the
3 plurality of computer systems, wherein:
4 the plurality of computer systems comprises:
5 a first computer system containing the program communicating through an
6 API with a first interface system, and
7 a second computer system containing the disk system and a second
8 interface system for communicating with the first interface system
9 and for reading from and writing to the disk system;
10 the first computer system and the second computer system are heterogeneous
11 computer systems having different file formats and word structures;
12 said method comprising:
13 A) opening a first session from the program via the API through the first interface
14 system to the second interface system in order to access the first file on the
15 disk system;
16 B) blocking via the API, the first plurality of records into a first plurality of
17 blocks wherein the first plurality of blocks are to be written as a portion of
18 the first file;
19 C) transmitting the first plurality of blocks over the first session from a first one
20 of the plurality of computer systems to a second one of the plurality of
21 computer systems;
22 D) unblocking the first plurality of blocks into a second plurality of records on
23 the second one of the plurality of computer systems; and
24 E) closing the first session after completing the transmitting in step (C).

1 2. (currently amended) The method in claim 1 wherein:
2 the first computer system is the first of the plurality of computer systems;
3 the second computer system is the second of the plurality of computer systems;
4 and
5 the method further comprises:
6 F) receiving the first plurality of records via the API from the
7 program; and
8 G) writing the second plurality of records to as a portion of the first
9 file on the disk system

1 3. (currently amended) The method in claim 1 wherein:
2 the first computer system is the second of the plurality of computer systems; and
3 the second computer system is the first of the plurality of computer systems;
4 the method further comprises:
5 F) reading the first plurality of records from the portion of the first
6 file of the disk system; and
7 G) receiving the second plurality of records in the program via the
8 API

1 4. (previously amended) The method in claim 1 wherein:
2 the transmitting in step (C) utilizes a credit based flow control mechanism to flow
3 control the first plurality of blocks; and
4 the credit based flow control mechanism utilizes a block based credit counting
5 each of the first plurality of blocks as one credit.

- 1 5. (currently amended) The method in claim 1 which further comprises:
2 F) opening a second session from the program via the API through the first
3 interface system to the second interface system in order to access a second
4 file on the disk system while the first session is still open;
5 G) blocking via the API, a third plurality of records into a second plurality of
6 blocks wherein the second plurality of blocks is to be written as a portion
7 of the second file;
8 H) transmitting the second plurality of blocks over the second session from a
9 third one of the plurality of computer systems to a fourth one of the
10 plurality of computer systems;
11 I) unblocking the second plurality of blocks into a fourth plurality of records on
12 the fourth one of the plurality of computer systems; and
13 J) closing the second session after completing the transmitting over the second
14 session in step (H).

- 1 6. (currently amended) The method in claim 5 wherein:
2 the first computer system is the first one of the plurality of computer systems and
3 the third one of the plurality of computer systems;
4 the second computer system is the second one of the plurality of computer
5 systems and the fourth one of the plurality of computer systems; and
6 the method further comprises:
7 K) receiving the first plurality of records via the API from the
8 program for transmission over the first session;
9 L) receiving the third plurality of records via the API from the
10 program for transmission over the second session;
11 M) writing the second plurality of records to the portion of the first
12 file; and
13 N) writing the fourth plurality of records to the portion of the
14 second file.

- 1 7. (currently amended) The method in claim 5 wherein:
2 the first computer system is the first one of the plurality of computer systems and
3 the fourth one of the plurality of computer systems;
4 the second computer system is the second one of the plurality of computer
5 systems and the third one of the plurality of computer systems; and
6 the method further comprises:
7 K) receiving the first plurality of records via the API from the
8 program for transmission over the first session;
9 L) writing the second plurality of records to the portion of the first
10 file;
11 M) reading the third plurality of records from the portion of the second
12 file; and
13 N) receiving the fourth plurality of records in the program via the API.

- 1 8. (original) The method in claim 1 wherein:
2 the first computer system is a mainframe computer system; and
3 the second computer system is a UNIX based computer system.

- 1 9. (original) The method in claim 1 wherein:
2 character data is stored in the first computer system in a first one of a plurality of
3 character formats;
4 character data is stored in the second computer system in a second one of a
5 plurality of character formats; and
6 the method further comprises:
7 F) translating at least a portion of each of the records in the first plurality of
8 blocks from one of the plurality of character formats to another one of the
9 plurality of character formats.

- 1 10. (original) The method in claim 1 wherein:
2 integer data is stored in the first computer system in a first one of a plurality of
3 integer formats;
4 integer data is stored in the second computer system in a second one of a plurality
5 of integer formats; and
6 the method further comprises:
7 F) translating at least a portion of each of the records in the first plurality of
8 blocks from one of the plurality of integer formats to another one of the
9 plurality of integer formats.

- 1 11. (currently amended) A data processing system having software stored in a set of
2 Computer Software Storage Media for accessing a first file on a disk system on
3 one of a plurality of computer systems from a program executing on another of
4 the plurality of computer systems, wherein:
5 the plurality of computer systems comprises:
6 a first computer system containing the program communicating through an
7 API with a first interface system, and
8 a second computer system containing the disk system and a second
9 interface system for communicating with the first interface system
10 and for reading from and writing to the disk system;
11 the first computer system and the second computer system are heterogeneous
12 computer systems having different file formats and word structures;
13 said software comprising:
14 A) a set of computer instructions for opening a first session from the program via
15 the API through the first interface system to the second interface system in
16 order to access the first file on the disk system;
17 B) a set of computer instructions for blocking via the API, the first plurality of
18 records into a first plurality of blocks wherein the first plurality of blocks
19 is being written in a portion of the first file;
20 C) a set of computer instructions for transmitting the first plurality of blocks over
21 the first session from a first one of the plurality of computer systems to a
22 second one of the plurality of computer systems;
23 D) a set of computer instructions for unblocking the first plurality of blocks into a
24 second plurality of records on the second one of the plurality of computer
25 systems; and
26 E) a set of computer instructions for closing the first session after completing the
27 transmitting in set (C).

1 12. (currently amended) The software in claim 11 wherein:
2 the first computer system is the first of the plurality of computer systems;
3 the second computer system is the second of the plurality of computer systems;
4 and
5 the software further comprises:
6 F) a set of computer instructions for receiving the first plurality of
7 records via the API from the program; and
8 G) a set of computer instructions for writing the second plurality of
9 records to the portion of the first file.

1 13. (currently amended) The software in claim 11 wherein:
2 the first computer system is the second of the plurality of computer systems; and
3 the second computer system is the first of the plurality of computer systems;
4 the software further comprises:
5 F) a set of computer instructions for reading the first plurality of
6 records from the portion of the first file; and
7 G) a set of computer instructions for receiving the second plurality of
8 records in the program via the API.

1 14. (previously amended) The software in claim 11 wherein:
2 the transmitting in set (C) utilizes a credit based flow control mechanism to flow
3 control the first plurality of blocks; and
4 the credit based flow control mechanism utilizes a block based credit counting
5 each of the first plurality of blocks as one credit.

- 1 15. (currently amended) The software in claim 11 which further comprises:
2 F) a set of computer instructions for opening a second session from the program
3 via the API through the first interface system to the second interface
4 system in order to access a second file on the disk system while the first
5 session is still open;
6 G) a set of computer instructions for blocking via the API, a third plurality of
7 records into a second plurality of blocks wherein the second plurality of
8 blocks constitutes a portion of the second file;
9 H) a set of computer instructions for transmitting the second plurality of blocks
10 over the second session from a third one of the plurality of computer
11 systems to a fourth one of the plurality of computer systems;
12 I) a set of computer instructions for unblocking the second plurality of blocks
13 into a fourth plurality of records on the fourth one of the plurality of
14 computer systems; and
15 J) a set of computer instructions for closing the second session after completing
16 the transmitting over the second session in set (H).

- 1 16. (currently amended) The software in claim 15 wherein:
2 the first computer system is the first one of the plurality of computer systems and
3 the third one of the plurality of computer systems;
4 the second computer system is the second one of the plurality of computer
5 systems and the fourth one of the plurality of computer systems; and
6 the software further comprises:
7 K) a set of computer instructions for receiving the first plurality of
8 records via the API from the program for transmission over the
9 first session;
10 L) a set of computer instructions for receiving the third plurality of
11 records via the API from the program for transmission over the
12 second session;
13 M) a set of computer instructions for writing the second plurality of
14 records to the portion of the first file; and
15 N) a set of computer instructions for writing the fourth plurality of
16 records to the portion of the second file.

- 1 17. (currently amended) The software in claim 15 wherein:
2 the first computer system is the first one of the plurality of computer systems and
3 the fourth one of the plurality of computer systems;
4 the second computer system is the second one of the plurality of computer
5 systems and the third one of the plurality of computer systems; and
6 the software further comprises:
7 K) a set of computer instructions for receiving the first plurality of
8 records via the API from the program for transmission over the
9 first session;
10 L) a set of computer instructions for writing the second plurality of
11 records to the portion of the first file;
12 M) a set of computer instructions for reading the third plurality of
13 records from the portion of the second file; and
14 N) a set of computer instructions for receiving the fourth plurality of
15 records in the program via the API.
- 1 18. (original) The software in claim 11 wherein:
2 the first computer system is a mainframe computer system; and
3 the second computer system is a UNIX based computer system.
- 1 19. (previously amended) The software in claim 11 wherein:
2 character data is stored in the first computer system in a first one of a plurality of
3 character formats;
4 character data is stored in the second computer system in a second one of a
5 plurality of character formats; and
6 the software further comprises:
7 F) a set of computer instructions for translating at least a portion of each of the
8 records in the first plurality of blocks from one of the plurality of character
9 formats to another one of the plurality of character formats.

- 1 20. (previously amended) The software in claim 11 wherein:
2 integer data is stored in the first computer system in a first one of a plurality of
3 integer formats;
4 integer data is stored in the second computer system in a second one of a plurality
5 of integer formats; and
6 the software further comprises:
7 F) a set of computer instructions for translating at least a portion of each of the
8 records in the first plurality of blocks from one of the plurality of integer
9 formats to another one of the plurality of integer formats.

- 1 21. (currently amended) A computer readable Non-Volatile Storage Medium
2 encoded with software for accessing a first file on a disk system on one of a
3 plurality of computer systems from a program executing on another of the
4 plurality of computer systems, wherein:
5 the plurality of computer systems comprises:
6 a first computer system containing the program communicating through an
7 API with a first interface system, and
8 a second computer system containing the disk system and a second
9 interface system for communicating with the first interface system
10 and for reading from and writing to the disk system;
11 the first computer system and the second computer system are heterogeneous
12 computer systems having different file formats and word structures;
13 said software comprising:
14 A) a set of computer instructions for opening via the API, a first session from the
15 program through the first interface system to the second interface system
16 in order to access the first file on the disk system;
17 B) a set of computer instructions blocking via the API, the first plurality of
18 records into a first plurality of blocks wherein the first plurality of blocks
19 is to be written as a portion of the first file;
20 C) a set of computer instructions for transmitting the first plurality of blocks over
21 the first session from a first one of the plurality of computer systems to a
22 second one of the plurality of computer systems;
23 D) a set of computer instructions for unblocking the first plurality of blocks into a
24 second plurality of records on the second one of the plurality of computer
25 systems; and
26 E) a set of computer instructions for closing the first session after completing the
27 transmitting in set (C).

- 1 22. (currently amended) A data processing system having software stored in a set of
2 Computer Software Storage Media for accessing a first file on a disk system on
3 one of a plurality of computer systems from a program executing on another of
4 the plurality of computer systems, wherein:
5 the plurality of computer systems comprises:
6 a first computer system containing the program communicating through an
7 API with a first interface system, and
8 a second computer system containing the disk system and a second
9 interface system for communicating with the first interface system
10 and for reading from and writing to the disk system;
11 the first computer system and the second computer system are heterogeneous
12 computer systems having different file formats and word structures;
13 said software comprising:
14 A) means for opening via the API, a first session from the program through the
15 first interface system to the second interface system in order to access the
16 first file on the disk system;
17 B) means for blocking via the API, the first plurality of records into a first
18 plurality of blocks for writing in a portion of the first file;
19 C) means for transmitting the first plurality of blocks over the first session from a
20 first one of the plurality of computer systems to a second one of the
21 plurality of computer systems;
22 D) means for unblocking the first plurality of blocks into a second plurality of
23 records on the second one of the plurality of computer systems; and
24 E) means for closing the first session after completing the transmitting in means
25 (D).